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**Montana Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

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The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is charged with the responsibility of providing outdoor recreation for Montanans and their guests.

Montanans have always enjoyed abundant and high quality hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation. This has been possible partly due to our geography, but it has also required aggressive fish and wildlife management and good stewardship of our basic resources—land and water.

The reality of an expanding human population that cuts across economic, sociological, political and biological processes is cause for our growing concern, and we try to reassure ourselves with reminders of our assets. Another of our concerns is the apparent change in philosophies and policies toward use of wildlife habitat.

As the demands upon land and water become greater, the job of providing optimum outdoor recreational opportunities is compounded. But we are determined to meet this challenge through more refined and innovative management and through enhanced public information and education.

ORGANIZATION

Commission: Montana is divided into five Fish and Game Commssion Districts along county lines. Each District is represented by one Fish and Game Commissioner.

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor and must have concurrence of the Senate. Three are appointed to serve terms concurrent with the gubernatorial term and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The remaining members are appointed to serve terms ending on the first day of the third January of the succeeding gubernatorial term.

Director: The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director is also appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Director serves a term concurrent with that of the Governor. The Director is the chief administrative officer of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; is responsible for all programs and actions of the Department; and has direct authority over all activities and all employees of the Department.

Deputy Director: The Deputy Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the Regional Supervisors and the following Division Administrators: Enforcement, Centralized Services and Conservation Education.

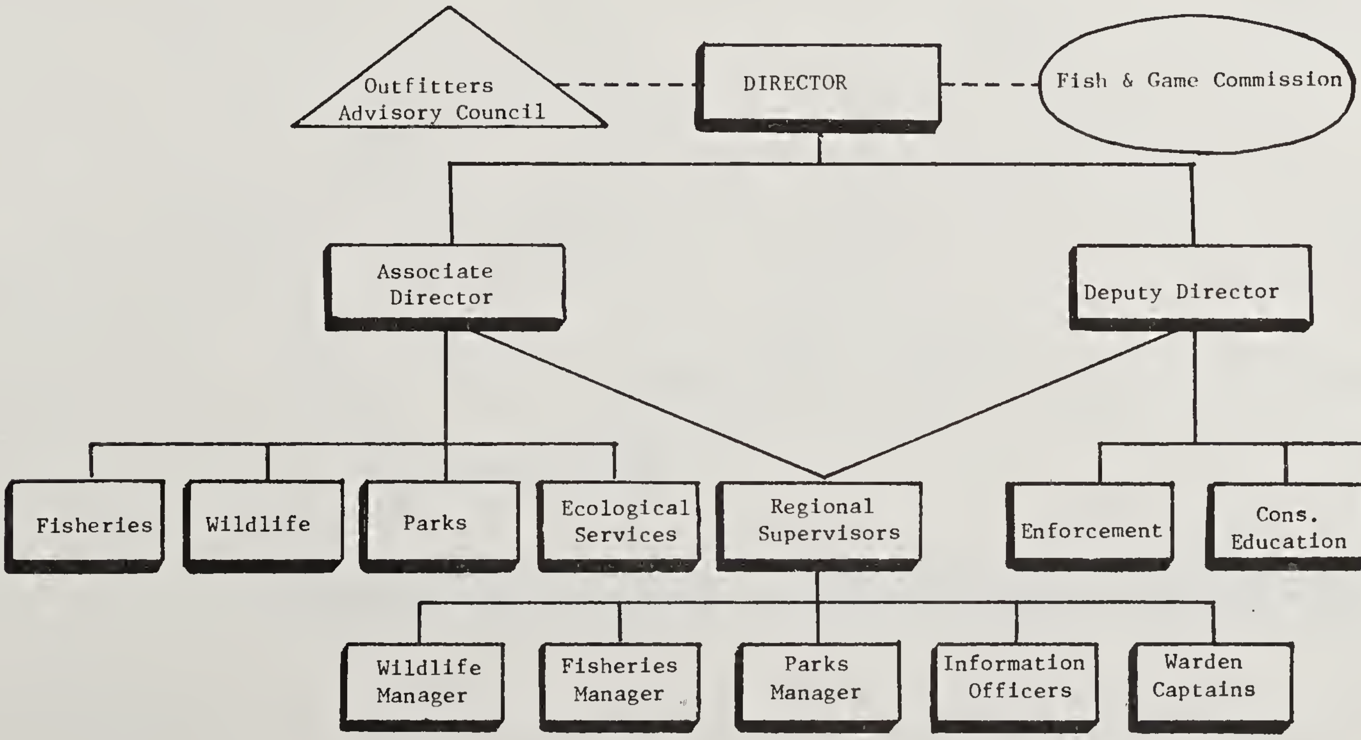
Associate Director: The Associate Director is responsible to the Director and has line authority over the Regional Supervisors and the following Division Administrators: Fisheries, Wildlife, Parks and Ecological Services.

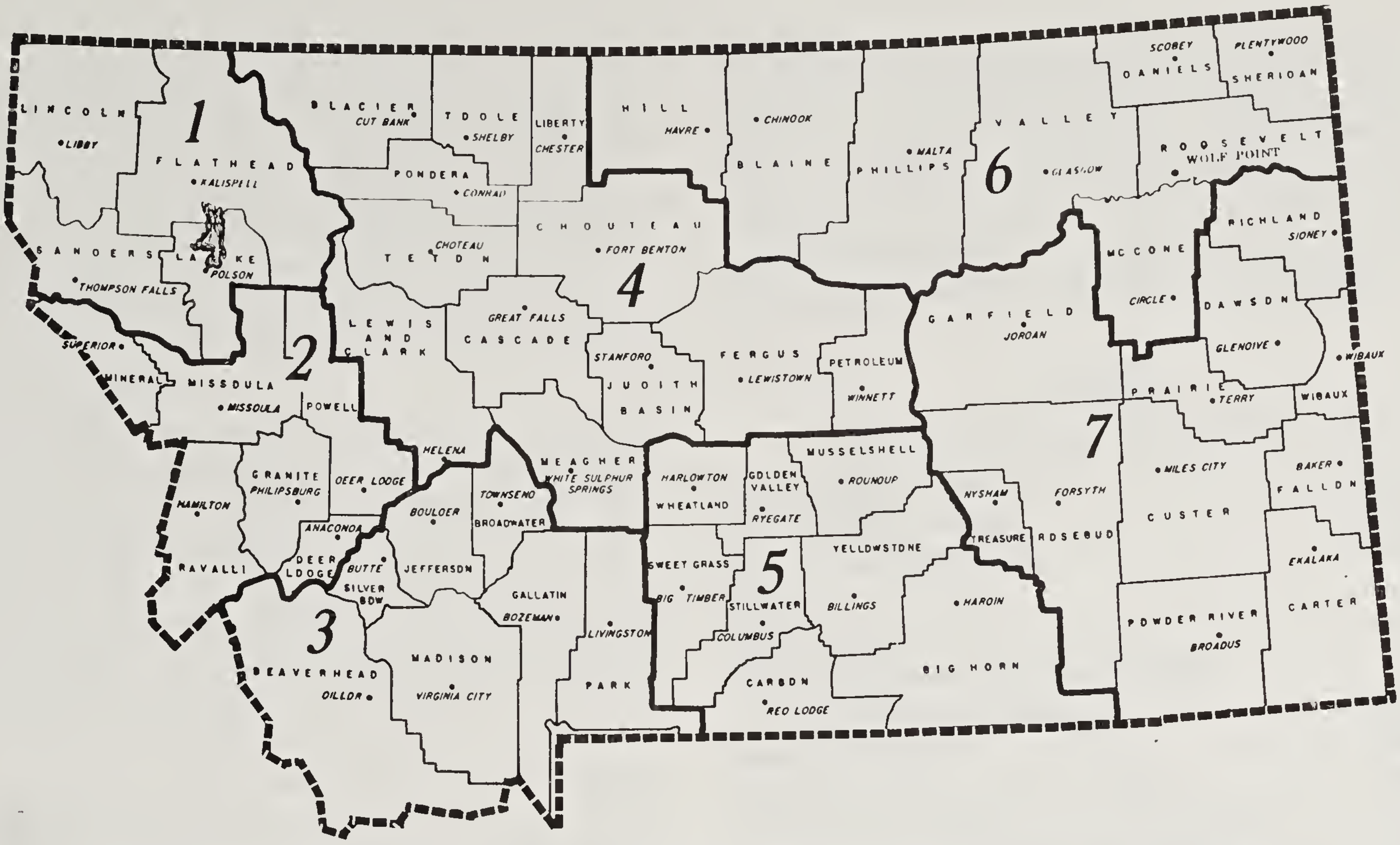
Division Administrator: Division administrators are staff officers who advise the Director on matters related to resource management, administration of resource programs and other special problems related to the division's area of expertise.

Administrators are responsible for statewide programs and budgets which they recommend to the Director after considering all factors, particularly requests and proposals from Regional Supervisors.

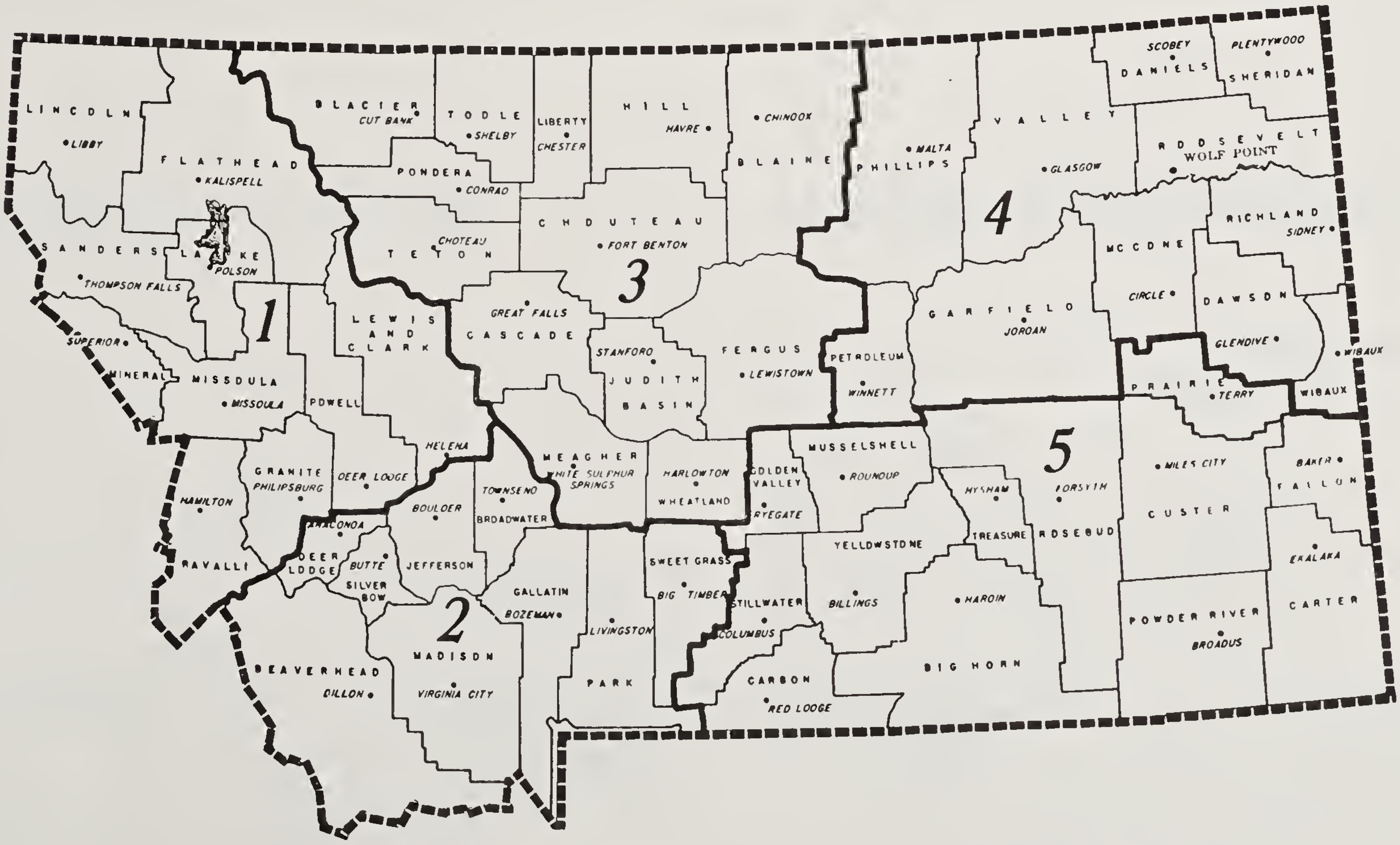
Administrators maintain line authority over division staff personnel as assigned by the Director.

Regional Supervisor: Regional Supervisors are line officers who are the Director's representatives in each administrative region. As such, they are the chief administrative officers for respective regions.





Fish, Wildlife and Parks Administrative Regions



Fish and Game Commission Districts

FUNDING

In 1902, the Department's first chief executive wrote, "the protection of game and fish should be self-sustaining. This can only be accomplished by those doing the hunting and fishing paying the cost of sport provided them..." To this day, hunters and fishermen continue to bear most of the financial burden for programs benefiting fish and wildlife. The Department's major source of income is from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

The second major source of income consists of a tax on sport hunting and fishing equipment. Federal excise taxes on sport firearms and ammunition comprise the Pittman-Robertson fund, and similar taxes on fishing equipment are Dingell-Johnson funds. These funds are made available to the states on a matching basis, 75 percent federal and 25 percent state. The size of the allotment depends upon the size of the state and the total license sales.

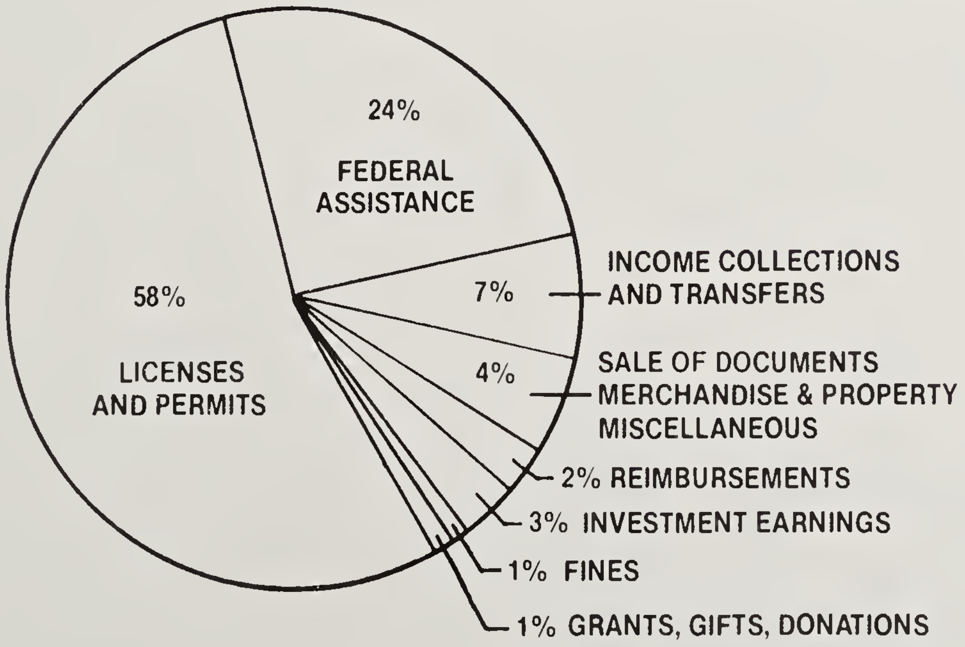
Other sources of funding are from federal and private contracts, cabin site and concession rentals, campground fees, entrance fees at Lewis and Clark State Caverns, fines, and a small appropriation from the state general fund for parks use. Nine-tenths of one percent of the state gasoline tax is earmarked for use on areas used by motorboats, and five-tenths of one percent for snowmobile recreation facilities and promotion of safety and education. It also receives benefit of two-thirds of the interest earned on a trust account receiving two and one-half percent of the Coal Severance Tax. The interest is used to acquire, develop and maintain state park system sites.

Funding

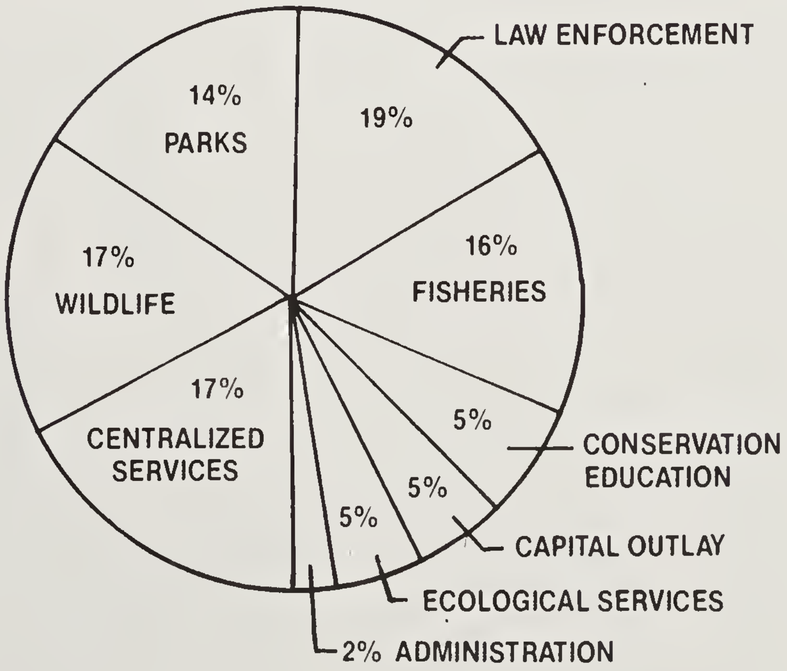
Revenue Received FYE June 30, 1983

Licenses and Permits	**$12,093,158**
Service Fees—Misc.	**240,037**
Investment Earnings	**633,862**
Fines	**248,380**
Reimbursements	**444,368**
Sale of Documents, Merchandise and Property (Misc.)	**300,180**
Miscellaneous	**299,629**
Rentals, Leases and Royalties	**58,707**
Grants, Gifts, Bequests and Donations	**90,131**
Income Collections and Transfers	**1,426,844**
Federal Assistance	**5,008,526**
Total	**$20,843,822**

% REVENUES BY SOURCES



% EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION



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Expenditure by Division FYE June 30, 1983

	Personal Services	Operating Expense	Equipment	Capital Outlay	Grants & Transfers	Total
Centralized Services	$1,383,506	$1,525,819	$ 490,381		-0-	$3,399,706
Ecological Services	719,657	336,546	8,494		6,510	1,071,207
Fisheries	2,189,900	892,431	200,287		16,000	3,298,618
Law Enforcement	3,058,522	788,561	15,023			3,862,106
Wildlife	2,174,345	1,329,595	59,647		27,028	3,590,615
Recreation and Parks	1,517,473	783,780	51,296		374,762	2,727,311
Capital Outlay	100,008			935,477	4,206	1,039,691
Conservation Education	593,942	477,782	39,020			1,110,744
Administration	268,016	135,237	1,573		105,000	509,826
Total	$12,005,369	$6,269,751	$865,721	$935,477	$ 533,506	$20,609,824

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION

The Centralized Services Division is an administrative and support unit comprised of two bureaus. The Accounting and Finance Bureau is responsible for recording all the financial transactions of the Department. This bureau also acts as a liaison with federal and state auditors and other agencies who review the Department's accounting records. In addition, the bureau assists in the preparation of the biennial budget and manages the Department's warehouse and vehicle fleet.

The License Bureau has two major functions—administering the license drawings and distributing licenses to our license agents.

Many Montanans apply for special hunting licenses and permits. The License Bureau is assigned the responsibility of randomly selecting the applicants according to state laws and commission policies. In 1983, 84,419 licenses were issued. The table below summarizes the number of applicants and successfuls from the past four years. The statistics illustrate the increased public interest in obtaining one of these limited licenses.

The Department has over 400 license agents throughout the state. These agents sell approximately one million general hunting and fishing licenses per year. It is the bureau's responsibility to design the licenses, consign them to the agents, and properly account for the proceeds.

The Word Processing Section in Centralized Services handles many of the typing projects for the divisions and regions.

DRAWING APPLICATIONS

SPECIES	1980	1981	1982	1983
Antelope	35,748	38,223	43,588	52,749
Deer A*	-0-	662	1,186	4,007
Deer B	7,197	13,080	21,007	36,542
Elk Permit	41,668	52,689	64,775	75,486
Deer Permit	6,857	8,458	7,679	13,395
Moose	19,623	18,479	18,223	21,051
Sheep	7,360	6,846	6,741	8,170
Goat	6,730	6,267	5,918	6,856
TOTAL	125,183	144,704	169,117	218,256

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

SPECIES	1980	1981	1982	1983
Antelope	18,150	21,240	26,212	32,041
Deer A*	0	394	1,114	2,592
Deer B	5,190	9,472	16,895	28,634
Elk Permit	11,662	12,455	13,550	16,285
Deer Permit	2,843	4,571	3,659	2,850
Moose	537	532	577	581
Sheep	823	784	902	1,106
Goat	374	364	338	330
TOTAL	39,579	49,812	63,247	84,419

SUMMARY OF LICENSE SALES
AND LICENSE FEES - 1970 - 1982

Resident Licenses

	1970	Cost	1971	Cost	1972	Cost	1973	Cost	1974	Cost	1975	Cost
Archery	*4,647	$3.00	5,370	$3.00	*6,528	$3.00	*10,342	$3.00	*9,875	$3.00	9,240	$5.00
Antelope	21,439	$3.00	23,151	$3.00	26,604	$3.00	27,813	$3.00	24,494	$3.00	23,189	$3.00
Bear - Black	**	N/A	2,547	$5.00	4,410	$5.00	6,268	$5.00	6,820	$5.00	6,805	$5.00
Bear - Grizzly	1,769	$1.00	746	$5.00	687	$5.00	586	$5.00	665	$5.00	716	$5.00
Grizzly Trophy	*13	$25.00	22	$25.00	*14	$25.00	15	$25.00	*18	$25.00	*13	$25.00
Bird Adult	53,941	$2.00	54,173	$2.00	57,662	$2.00	59,965	$2.00	56,332	$2.00	55,164	$2.00
Bird Youth	4,687	$1.00	4,748	$1.00	4,971	$1.00	5,081	$1.00	4,796	$1.00	4,366	$1.00
Conservation	210,096	$.25	217,728	$.25	225,907	$.25	235,699	$.25	232,616	$.25	230,541	$.25
Deer A - Adult	120,236	$3.00	123,051	$3.00	126,941	$3.00	140,375	$3.00	135,995	$3.00	126,226	$3.00
Deer A - Youth	11,071	$1.50	11,388	$1.50	11,753	$1.50	12,484	$1.50	12,372	$1.50	11,274	$1.50
Deer B - Adult	31,052	$5.00	29,010	$5.00	35,101	$5.00	48,871	$5.00	41,103	$5.00	23,366	$5.00
Deer B - Youth	2,617	$2.50	2,486	$2.50	2,802	$2.50	3,904	$2.50	3,309	$2.50	1,682	$2.50
Elk - Adult	72,538	$3.00	72,788	$3.00	75,279	$3.00	82,729	$3.00	84,475	$3.00	79,675	$3.00
Elk - Youth	4,678	$1.50	4,573	$1.50	4,814	$1.50	5,345	$1.50	5,668	$1.50	5,323	$1.50
Fishing	142,079	$3.00	148,566	$3.00	155,705	$3.00	160,510	$3.00	161,407	$5.00	158,368	$5.00
Goat	835	$15.00	696	$15.00	616	$15.00	588	$15.00	570	$15.00	286	$15.00
Lion		N/A		N/A		N/A	241	$5.00	258	$5.00	286	$5.00
Moose	676	$25.00	676	$25.00	641	$25.00	756	$25.00	762	$25.00	752	$25.00
Pioneer (Fish, Game Bird)	15,347	$.15	16,808	$.15	17,588	$.15	21,677	$.15	27,151	$.15	23,652	$.15
Sheep	342	$25.00	382	$25.00	427	$25.00	589	$25.00	607	$25.00	671	$25.00
Sportmans	611	$20.25	924	$20.25	1,403	$20.25	1,697	$20.25	2,188	$20.25	2,539	$20.25
Turkey	*1,262	$2.00	*1,679	$2.00	*2,238	$2.00	*1,900	$2.00	*2,626	$2.00	*3,790	$2.00

	1976	Cost	1977	Cost	1978	Cost	1979	Cost	1980	Cost	1981	Cost	1982	Cost
Archery	*7,809	$6.00	*9,239	$6.00	*10,424	$6.00	*11,383	$6.00	14,001	$6.00	15,703	$6.00	*17,233	$6.00
Antelope	25,087	$5.00	25,059	$5.00	20,344	$5.00	15,855	$5.00	17,146	$5.00	21,312	$5.00	28,111	$5.00
Bear - Black	7,251	$6.00	7,866	$6.00	8,305	$6.00	9,863	$6.00	10,458	$6.00	9,775	$8.00	7,223	$8.00
Bear - Grizzly	389	$25.00	411	$25.00	497	$25.00	472	$25.00	537	$25.00	675	$25.00	626	$25.00
Grizzly Trophy	*11	$25.00	*5	$25.00	*7	$25.00	*11	$25.00	*12	$25.00	11	$25.00	*17	$25.00
Bird Adult	55,908	$4.00	61,358	$4.00	60,030	$4.00	61,643	$4.00	59,769	$4.00	47,326	$4.00	46,061	$4.00
Bird Youth	4,458	$1.00	4,353	$1,00	4,230	$1,00	4,082	$1.00	3,920	$2.00	3,165	$2.00	3,240	$2.00
Conservation	252,248	$1.00	256,721	$1.00	257,407	$1.00	284,733	$1.00	264,530	$1.00	269,072	$2.00	113,672	$2.00
Deer A - Adult	102,327	$6.00	109,402	$7.00	109,292	$7.00	122,220	$7.00	132,593	$7.00	137,018	$7.00	131,051	$8.00
Deer A - Youth	9,659	$2.00	9,308	$2.00	8,498	$2.00	8,656	$2.00	8,886	$2.00	9,091	$2.00	9,854	$2.00
Deer B - Adult		$12.00	82	$12.00	471	$12.00	1,197	$12.00	6,305	$5.00	11,691	$5.00	18,787	$5.00
Deer B - Youth		Disc.												
Elk - Adult	68,126	$8.00	74,466	$8.00	75,557	$8.00	81,392	$8.00	84,753	$8.00	86,515	$8.00	70,669	$9.00
Elk - Youth	5,126	$2.00	4,967	$2.00	4,913	$2.00	4,908	$2.00	5,086	$2.00	5,477	$2.00	5,003	$2.00
Fishing	167,885	$5.00	168,307	$5.00	170,676	$5.00	173,965	$5.00	177,815	$5.00	172,414	$7.00	12,206	$7.00
Goat	507	$15.00	440	$15.00	430	$15.00	401	$15.00	359	$15.00	349	$15.00	325	$15.00
Lion	517	$5.00	574	$5.00	643	$5.00	614	$5.00	787	$5.00	893	$5.00	1,027	$5.00
Moose	698	$25.00	584	$25.00	576	$25.00	563	$25.00	532	$25.00	522	$25.00	571	$25.00
Pioneer (Fish, Game Bird)		Disc.												
Sheep	661	$25.00	547	$25.00	875	$25.00	809	$25.00	759	$25.00	825	$25.00	963	$25.00
Sportmans	2,127	$35.00	2,106	$35.00	2,691	$35.00	2,363	$35.00	3,457	$35.00	5,488	$35.00	14,038	$35.00
Turkey	*3,114	$2.00	*3,224	$2.00	*3,350	$2.00	*4,315	$2.00	*4,734	$2.00	5,341	$2.00	*6,558	$3.00
Conservation & Fishing													158,913	$9.00
Senior Elk													3,705	$4.00
Senior Deer													7,136	$4.00

* Both Resident and Nonresident License Included.

SUMMARY OF LICENSE SALES AND LICENSE FEES - 1970 - 1982

Nonresident Licenses

	1970	Cost	1971	Cost	1972	Cost	1973	Cost	1974	Cost	1975	Cost
Antelope (with combination)	1,374	$10.00	1,826	$10.00	2,521	$10.00	1,493	$10.00	4,179	$10.00	5,136	$10.00
Antelope	3,291	$35.00	3,677	$35.00	3,146	$35.00	3,111	$35.00	1909	$35.00	1805	$35.00
Archery	*4,647	$3.00	*5,370	$3.00	*6,528	$3.00	*10,342	$3.00	*9,875	$3.00	*9,240	$3.00
Bear - Black - Season	60	$20.00	337	$35.00	531	$35.00	708	$35.00	899	$35.00	1,255	$35.00
Bear - Black - Spring									67	$35.00	181	$35.00
Bear - Grizzly	211	$25.00	222	$35.00	261	$35.00	224	$35.00	253	$35.00	270	$35.00
Bear - Grizzly Trophy	*13	$25.00	*22	$25.00	*14	$25.00	*15	$25.00	*18	$25.00	*13	$25.00
Bird	1,046	$25.00	1,191	$25.00	1,432	$25.00	1,352	$25.00	1,339	$25.00	1,451	$25.00
Combination (Elk-Deer-etc.)	9,501	$151.00	11,973	$151.00	13,970	$151.00	19,230	$151.00	20,560	$151.00	25,584	$151.00
Combination-Bird-Fish	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Conservation	80,759	$1.00	87,744	$1.00	99,459	$1.00	99,128	$1.00	89,646	$1.00	87,526	$1.00
Deer Only	10,329	$35.00	13,741	$35.00	13,550	$35.00	10,745	$35.00	7,376	$35.00	2,010	$35.00
Fishing: Season	6,968	$15.00	7,457	$15.00	7,925	$15.00	8,640	$15.00	9,636	$20.00	10,286	$20.00
Fishing - 1 Day	130,024	$1.00	145,251	$1.00	176,697	$1.00	169,876	$1.00	144,164	$2.00	135,253	$2.00
Fishing - 6 day	24,007	$5.00	25,207	$5.00	26,961	$5.00	26,424	$5.00	16,275	$10.00	17,451	$10.00
Goat	247	$30.00	217	$30.00	48	$30.00	47	$30.00	50	$30.00	44	$30.00
Lion	N/A		N/A		N/A		241	$25.00	93	$25.00	120	$25.00
Moose	32	$50.00	25	$50.00	32	$50.00	42	$50.00	39	$50.00	39	$50.00
Sheep	172	$50.00	174	$50.00	172	$50.00	227	$50.00	261	$50.00	325	$50.00
Turkey	*1,262	$2.00	*1,679	$2.00	*2,238	$2.00	*1,900	$2.00	*2,626	$2.00	*3,790	$2.00

	1976	Cost	1977	Cost	1978	Cost	1979	Cost	1980	Cost	1981	Cost	1982	Cost
Antelope (with combination)		Disc.												
Antelope	2,080	$50.00	2,195	$50.00	1,975	$50.00	963	$50.00	1,233	$100.00	1,387	$100.00	2,009	$100.00
Archery	*7,809	$6.00	*9,239	$6.00	*10,424	$6.00	*11,383	$6.00	*14,001	$6.00	15,703	$6.00	*17,233	$6.00
Bear - Black - Season	58	$50.00	45	$50.00	81	$50.00	40	$50.00	634	$100.00	622	$100.00	655	$100.00
Bear - Black - Spring	287	$50.00	412	$50.00	613	$50.00	1,064	$50.00		Disc.				
Bear - Grizzly	124	$125.00	102	$125.00	124	$125.00	112	$125.00	123	$150.00	123	$125.00	83	$175.00
Bear - Grizzly Trophy	*11	$25.00	*5	$25.00	*7	$25.00	*11	$25.00	*12	$25.00	11	$25.00	*17	$25.00
Bird	1,714	$30.00	2,240	$30.00	2,157	$30.00	2,526	$30.00	2,660	$30.00	2,573	$30.00	3,297	$30.00
Combination (Elk-Deer-etc.)	12,689	$225.00	13,767	$225.00	16,553	$225.00	17,000	$225.00	17,000	$225.00	17,000	$225.00	17,000	$225.00
Combination-Bird-Fish	1,718	$50.00	960	$50.00	994	$50.00	951	$50.00		Disc.				
Conservation	99,778	$1.00	105,146	$1.00	107,360	$1.00	101,484	$1.00	106,961	$1.00	116,145	$2.00	108,225	$2.00
Deer Only	1,011	$50.00	0	$50.00	0	$50.00	314	$50.00	651	$50.00	917	A - $100.00	2,111	$100.00
											1,169	B - $50.00	2,339	$50.00
Fishing: Season	11,865	$20.00	13,250	$20.00	14,100	$20.00	14,695	$20.00	14,002	$20.00	17,483	$20.00	1,978	$30.00
Fishing - 1 Day	150,393	$2.00	154,576	$2.00	153,325	$2.00	133,922	$2.00	143,503	$2.00	156,248	$2.00	Disc.	
Fishing - 6 day	19,721	$10.00	21,549	$10.00	22,838	$10.00	24,269	$10.00	23,859	$10.00	26,182	$10.00	Disc.	
Goat	39	$75.00	27	$75.00	26	$75.00	22	$75.00	15	$150.00	15	$150.00	13	$175.00
Lion	70	$25.00	102	$25.00	123	$25.00	111	$25.00	61	$100.00	69	$100.00	93	$100.00
Moose	19	$125.00	18	$125.00	12	$125.00	12	$125.00	6	$150.00	10	$150.00	6	$175.00
Sheep	313	$125.00	176	$125.00	339	$125.00	288	$125.00	218	$150.00	214	$150.00	210	$175.00
Turkey	*3,114	$2.00	*3,224	$2.00	*3,350	$2.00	*4,315	$2.00	*4,734	$2.00	5,341	$2.00	*6,558	$3.00
2-Day Fishing													178,605	$4.00
Cons. & Fishing													10,788	$32.00

* Both Resident and Nonresident License Included.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION

The Conservation Education Division fulfills the public relations function for the Department. Primary areas of responsibility include public information, audio visual materials, publications, news releases, youth education program, duplicating, mail services, reception services including license sales and information for the Helena office.

This Division publishes the Department magazine **MONTANA OUTDOORS,** maintains a film lending library, produces 16mm color films, tapes television public service annoucements, distributes prepared radio spots and publishes the Department's hunting and fishing regulations and maps.

MONTANA OUTDOORS, the Department's bi-montly magazine, maintained a paid subscription of about 34,000. In addition, 2,700 copies of each issue were distributed through other means, such as news stands. In 1983 the magazine continued to produce an annual, photographic issue. The magazine won two awards from the International Association for Conservation Information, a third place in color photgraphy, and third place in a special efforts category.

The film production unit initiated work on our next documentary that deals with Department lands. Stock footage for Montana television stations was distributed.

Through the Film Center, black and white darkroom materials were produced on Department topics. In addition, slide duplication and distribution were provided. Through our film catalog, we estimate the 106 different film titles maintained in our film library were booked in excess of 1,700 times. We estimate that approximately 70,000 people viewed films from our library.

Through our youth education program 245 television shows, 17 radio programs, 74 service programs and 3 graduations, in addition to one hour programs in 287 schools, 12 summer camps and 5 teacher workshops were given. Work continued on Project WILD which is an interdisciplinary effort aimed at environmental education for youth. Project WILD is being coordinated with the Western Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Publications continued to be a big part of the Division effort. Several informational pamphlets were very popular with the public and include the Identification of Montana's Most Common Game and Sport Fishes, Montana's Recreation Map and the Blackfoot River Guide.

The Department's activities continued to generate interest and news. Over 104 news releases were generated from the Helena office in addition to those which were released at the regional level. Also, for ten weeks during the summer, a weekly Fishing Roundup was provided to wire services.

A weekly feature item entitled "Montana Outdoors" for newspaper columns was produced. Monthly radio public service announcements were provided to 46 radio stations in the state and TV public service announcements were aired by 12 stations throughout Montana.

The Division was also responsible for providing central mail and printer services to the agency. The Print Shop utilizes a darkroom with a camera, bindary, printing and collating. The centralized mail processing also contains office supplies for the Department.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Ecological Services Division concentrates on habitat protection issues in areas of accelerated development activity. All of its responsibilties are a reflection of concern for Montana fish and wildlife written in the State's statutes.

Specific obligations established by law include: collecting information for instream flow needs and applying for reservations under the Montana Water Use Act, complying with the current water adjudication process (SB 76), reporting on development impacts as specified under the state's facility siting authority, administering the Stream Preservation Act and others.

As the Department's chief liaison with other agencies, the Division coordinates the Department's water quality work with the Department of Health, and its water allocation projects with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Efforts to represent fish and wildlife needs in areas of coal and oil development are coordinated with the Department of State Lands and federal agencies.

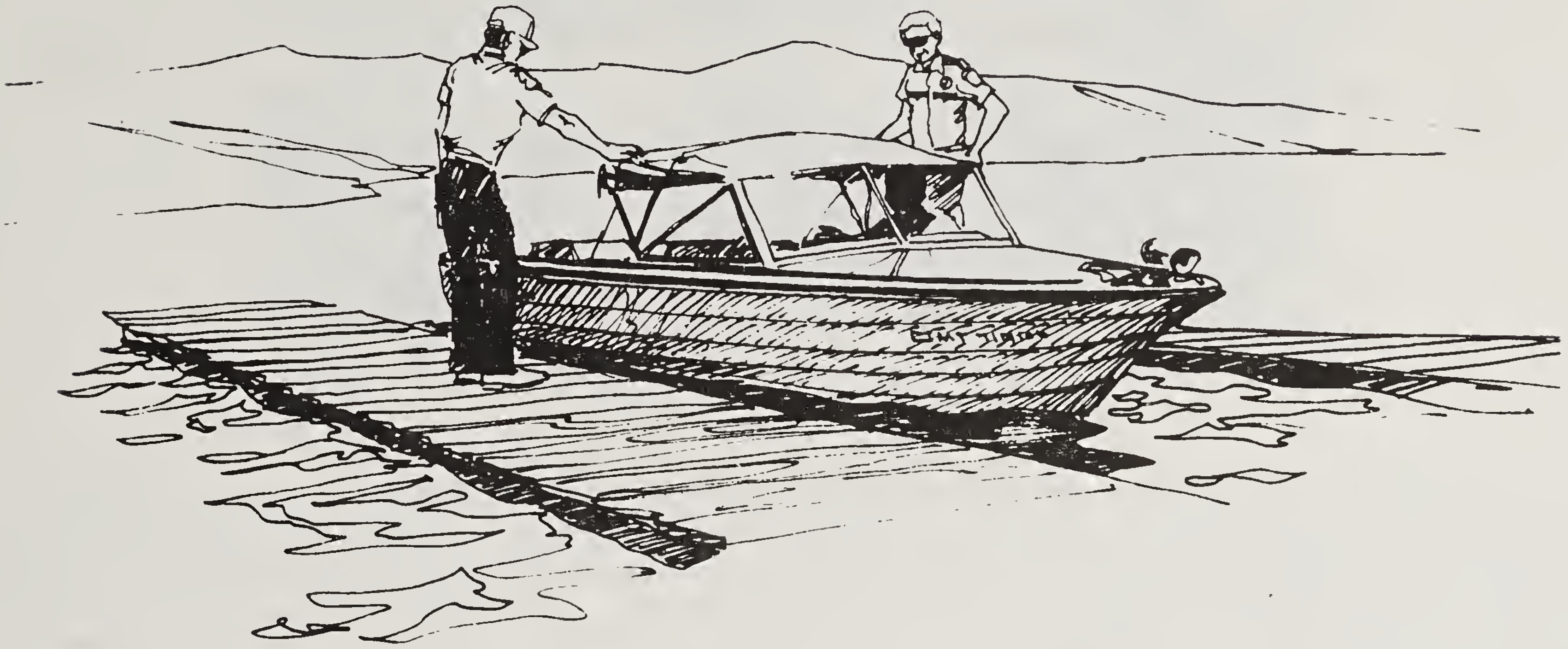
The Division has a number of cooperative projects with federal agencies and private industry. These efforts include working with the oil companies to preserve critical habitat along the Rocky Mountain Front, negotiating with coal companies to assure wildlife protection in regions of developing strip mines, and implementing innovative planning with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Division is also responsible for the department's compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), as well as the National Environmental Policy (NEPA). In the case of MEPA, Ecological Services assures both procedural and substantive adherence to the law. In the case of NEPA, review of federal documents is monitored through the Department and coordinated with other state agencies.

A major highlight during the year was the continued progress of the wildlife program along the Rocky Mountain Front. In response to growing resource extraction pressures, emphasis was placed on studying the area's remarkable wildlife potential. Studies are active on deer, elk, sheep, mountain goats, grizzly bears and raptors. This major effort has involved three federal agencies, private conservation groups and oil and gas industry representation. The primary objective is to ensure compatibility between resource development and wildlife preservation.

Perhaps the project with the greatest long-term potential for fish and wildlife, the Elkhorn Mountains planning effort, moved forward during the year. This area is a national prototype for managing forest resources to the ultimate benefit of wildlife. The area was once a hotly contested wilderness area candidate. The only thing interested groups agreed upon was that wildlife is the key, and should prosper in the Elkhorns. This project strives to bring to reality the idea that careful resource management can bring multiple public benefits without compromising the quality of wild land that produces abundant wildlife. Working together, a receptive Helena National Forest planning staff and Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologists now have unprecedented opportunities to help secure wildlife's future. This is the only project of its kind in the nation; it has exciting potential.

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



The Division goal is to achieve an acceptable level of compliance to laws and regulations. This includes enforcing the laws of this State and the rules of the Department with reference to the protection, preservation of game, furbearing animals, fish and game birds, and enforcing laws and regulations relative to Department owned or administered lands or waters, boat safety, hunter safety and snowmobile safety.

Other duties include administration of special purpose licenses including private fish ponds, taxidermists, fur dealers, landowner trappers, falconers, zoos, shooting preserves and approximately 400 licenses agents. The Division is responsible for administering the Outfitter Act and coordinating with the Montana Outfitter Council to establish standards for outfitting and guiding. The Division investigates wildlife damage complaints (fur and big game) and provides assistance to landowners in alleviating damage from wildlife. It also assists in the protection, conservation, and propagating of fish, game, furbearing animals, game and nongame birds.

Preplanning and modification of work plans, along with additional allocation of travel funds by the 1983 Legislature has resulted in a significant increase in all contact areas.

The Division has again utilized saturation patrols in high problem areas. High visibility and public relations are associated with this program.

One of two new programs involved cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the use of officers in undercover assignments. This resulted in breaking up what has been described as one of the largest multi-state poaching operations in the history of this region.

Workload criteria has been developed for each warden district with subsequent performance standards to evaluate program effectiveness.

The Division continues to provide conservation officer training and participates in implementation of regional conservation officer programs. Programs for warden inservice training are ongoing.

Since the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks first offered hunter safety courses in 1948, about 181,000 young people and numerous adults have been certified as safe hunters. Over the years, the course has evolved from strictly hunter safety to one that includes many aspects of outdoor education. Survival, first aid, game management and game identification are just a few of the subjects covered in our hunter education course. Of the approximately 650 certified hunter safety instructors, 54 are chief instructors responsible for supervising and coordinating the program in their counties. The Division administered the hunter safety training program through June 30, 1983.

FISHERIES DIVISION

The Fisheries Division is responsible for management of Montana's aquatic resources. Its specific goals are to maintain optimum fish populations in Montana waters and provide improved sport fishing opportunities where feasible. Activities to meet these goals include maintenance of natural wild fish habitat, an efficient fish cultural program consistent with the needs of the waters, continued surveys and investigations to determine these needs, regulations to provide the maximum amount of sport fishing compatible with the stocks of fish produced each year, and promotion of commercial harvest of rough fish where this is possible without damage to sport fishing.

The Division highlights for 1983 include:

Fisheries Division Staff Organization

With the planned Department reorganization, the Ecological Services Division's fisheries responsibilities and personnel will be transferred to the Fisheries Division. To meet the expanded responsibilities, the Fisheries Division staff organization was changed.

Cool-Warm Water Fish Needs

Montana's needs for cool water fishes (walleye and northern pike) and warm water fishes (largemouth and smallmouth bass) have historically been met by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service largely through the National Fish Hatchery at Miles City. The Service discontinued its operation of this hatchery March 31, 1983. Since April 1 the Department has operated the hatchery under a 30-year lease agreement.

Fish Habitat Protection

For years, habitat protection has been a top priority of the Fisheries Division. Stream protection under the Stream Protection Act and the Natural Streambed and Land Protection Act are old standbys. This year microhydro electric generation plants became a consideration, with over 100 applications for microhydro projects processed. Most required on-site inspections and recommendations for by-pass flows to maintain fish populations.

Harrison Lake

The DeSmet rainbow from Lake DeSmet, Wyoming have been an outstanding success at Harrison Lake near Ennis. Biologists have used counts of spawners in the tributaries as an index of population numbers. The count in 1975 was 14 spawners. As a result of planting DeSmet strain starting in 1977, the count last spring had increased to 2,000 spawners that yielded approximately one million eggs for hatchery propagation and planting in Harrison Lake and other waters.

Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study

Fisheries biologists completed a five-year baseline environmental assessment of the fisheries in the North and Middle Forks of the Flathead River and Flathead Lake. The project, funding by EPA and under the direction of the Flathead Basin Steering Committee, was undertaken to gain fisheries information such as timing and routes of migrations, location and attributes of key spawning areas, and flow needs; plus insight into fishermen use. Detailed recommendations for a long-range fish habitat monitoring program were developed. Results of this study will be the basis for minimizing the impact of proposed Canadian coal development and potential of existing gas, oil and lumber extraction in the upper Flathead drainage.

PARKS DIVISION

Since 1965, when the Fish and Game Department (name changed to Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in 1979) accepted management responsibility for outdoor recreation in Montana, the State Park System has grown from an embryonic stage to an intricate system of over 314 parks, monuments, recreation areas, fishing access sites, waterways, roads, and trails. Operation and maintenance of snowmobile and motorboat facilities is the responsibility of the Parks Division. Other special interest outdoor recreation groups often turn to the Division and the Department for assistance. One formalized means of assistance is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which is administered by the Parks Division. The LWCF is a federal grants-in-aid program for local and state outdoor recreation projects.

During Fiscal Year 1983, four new fishing access sites and one new state recreation area were acquired. Several additions were made to state parks, state monuments, state recreation areas and fishing access sites. A total of 420 acres of land was acquired during this period. This includes an addition to Wildhorse Island of 336 acres, donated by the Nature Conservancy. This donation represents the last large segment of Wildhorse Island to be acquired. Several lots remain in private ownership on the island. The Department hopes to acquire these properties in the future.

The 1983 Legislature appropriated over 2.3 million dollars in coal tax revenue for the acquisition of eight additional sites totaling over 240 acres in the 84-85 biennium.

The park system hosted over 3.7 million visitors during the summer of 1983. This is a 9 percent increase over visitation figures from the previous year.

In Fiscal Year 1983, approximately $179,000 were expended on operation, maintenance, development and the administration of Montana's snowmobile program. Accomplishments include approximately 1600 miles of groomed trail, four plowed parking lots and nearly 98,000 snowmobile visits.

A total of over 2.4 million dollars were expended by the Parks Division with park maintenance taking the largest share of this, 68%.

Montana's apportionment of land and water conservation funds in Fiscal Year 1983 totaled $653,808. These funds allowed acquisition and/or development of five state and fifteen local projects.

The 1983 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was completed as per federal requirements and culminates a five year effort to continue eligibility of the state for further LWCF assistance.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

The management of the wildlife resources of Montana require extensive information about wildlife and their habitats as well as the expertise to understand and utilize the information. The goal of the Wildlife Division is to protect, enhance and regulate the wise use of the wildlife resource for public benefit now and in the future. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Wildlife Division to collect and analyze necessary information and to recommend and carry out a sound wildlife and wildlife habitat management program.

Information that is gathered provides the biological basis for game and fur season recommendations to the Commission each year. The information is also utilized in developing cooperative programs with public and private landowners as well as private industry to manage, protect and enhance wildlife habitat. This involves developing guidelines to allow for development while protecting Montana's wildlife heritage. The Division also operates and maintains the Department's wildlife management areas totaling 289,756 acres. Of these 183,777 acres are deeded, 105,979 acres are leased and the remaining acreage is managed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

During the past several years the various wildlife species have been assigned a priority rank. As might be expected deer, elk and antelope were ranked as the species needing the most attention. Harvest goals, populations levels, and identification of problems associated with the major herds of these animals in each administrative region have been described.

The "allowable rate of harvest" for these herds is being determined. This harvest rate is to be coordinated with the population's highs and lows. Simply stated, liberal hunting seasons need to occur when these herds are increasing and restrictive seasons when they are decreasing. The trick is to anticipate increases, peaks, decreases and valleys **before** they occur. Considerable progress has been made by the Wildlife Division for some species in determining the factors causing and indicating these events.

MONTANA BIG GAME HARVEST, 1966-1982

			BLACK			GOAT			SHEEP	
		ANTELOPE	BEAR	DEER	ELK	LIMITED	UNLIMITED	MOOSE	LIMITED	UNLIMITED
1966	No. Hunters	19,556	9,760	106,180	55,113	459	836	666	74	281
	Harvest	13,865	2,000	98,100	13,400	225	250	510	44	32
	Percent Success	71	21	92	23	49	30	74	59	11
1967	No. Hunters	18,052	10,571	115,185	71,883	589	256	616	78	145
	Harvest	12,599	2,130	88,640	14,500	294	90	433	56	12
	Percent Success	70	20	77	21	50	35	70	73	8
1968	No. Hunters	16,150	8,290	125,711	7,962	598	200	643	75	172
	Harvest	11,500	1,700	99,250	16,700	263	29	457	55	13
	Percent Success	71	24	79	21	44	14	71	74	7
1969	No. Hunters	19,871	8,787	128,177	73,848	537	213	645	77	279
	Harvest	14,543	1,700	102,800	12,100	267	66	457	50	17
	Percent Success	73	20	80	16	49	31	71	65	7
1970	No. Hunters	23,697	7,204	136,903	77,819	573	223	670	59	447
	Harvest	18,023	1,079	110,988	13,988	303	51	518	43	31
	Percent Success	76	15	80	18	52	23	86	73	7
1971	No. Hunters	24,802	5,105	141,243	72,337	546	Discontinued	651	72	574
	Harvest	18,403	1,185	116,716	11,785	234		427	50	54
	Percent Success	74	23	83	16	43		66	70	9
1972	No. Hunters	27,762	3,382	152,545	75,951	556		766	76	754
	Harvest	19,710	928	112,996	10,867	280		597	57	35
	Percent Success	71	27	74	15	50		78	75	5
1973	No. Hunters	28,062	5,019	167,359	87,746	571		780	98	776
	Harvest	19,303	1,347	137,441	17,498	306		532	80	54
	Percent Success	69	27	82	20	54		68	82	7
1974	No. Hunters	27,163	5,705	154,110	89,369	508		763	121	631
	Harvest	18,810	1,527	103,656	10,930	237		498	89	10
	Percent Success	69	27	67	12	47		65	74	2
1975	No. Hunters	25,022	6,201	148,109	91,956	500		698	124	534
	Harvest	17,298	1,252	77,496	15,750	302		376	100	20
	Percent Success	69	20	52	17	60		54	81	4
1976	No. Hunters	23,273	10,187	112,783	74,190	410		587	90	438
	Harvest	16,292	1,637	43,291	7,860	230		401	81	24
	Percent Success	70	16	38	11	56		68	90	5
1977	No. Hunters	24,214	10,187	120,798	79,628					
	Harvest	18,528	1,637	54,143	13,342					
	Percent Success	77	16	45	17					
1978	No. Hunters	18,393	5,262	125,054	86,636	409		569	133	510
	Harvest	13,471	909	53,933	12,017	238		406	113	23
	Percent Success	73	17	43	14	58		71	85	4
1979	No. Hunters	14,170	10,666	139,895	89,367	392		568	121	651
	Harvest	10,039	795	64,134	11,692	234		421	109	34
	Percent Success	71	7	46	13	60		74	91	5
1980	No. Hunters	16,104	18,135	151,918	89,822	339		525	181	303
	Harvest	12,016	1,870	85,164	14,841	230		389	166	15
	Percent Success	75	10	56	17	68		74	91	5
1981	No. Hunters	18,973	13,262	153,710	88,153	336		508	180	384
	Harvest	14,954	1,450	88,797	12,868	208		408	164	14
	Percent Success	79	11	58	15	61.9		80	91	4
1982	No. Hunters	22,767	10,642	160,077	90,103	308		567	220	449
	Harvest	20,830	1,277	100,340	14,009	170		497	202	18
	Percent Success	92	13	62	16	55		88	92	4

ARCHERY HUNTING, 1968 - 1982

	Deer		Elk		Antelope	
Year	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest
1968	1988	275	1021	35	106	0
1969	1738	259	934	58	97	0
1970	3438	440	1780	29	215	34
1971	4066	593	2208	57	235	7
1972	4794	511	2966	77	426	23
1973	7162	712	4927	112	489	22
1974	7965	663	5636	81	489	25
1975	7972	805	5344	175	508	85
1976	6000	485	4927	198	474	60
1977	7143	825	6338	269	498	90
1978	7849	865	7238	354	347	50
1979	12,096	850	7265	363	240	7
1980	15,081	1398	9060	444	366	34
1981	14,725	1512	9263	408	470	106
1982	16,082	1821	9655	504	466	57

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